



NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Robert B. Tierney
Chairman

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COMMISSION DESIGNATES FOUR RARE, FEDERAL STYLE HOUSES IN LOWER MANHATTAN AS NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS



The Landmarks Preservation Commission today voted unanimously to extend landmark protection to four Federal style row houses in Lower Manhattan that recall the period after the Revolutionary War when New York City emerged as the country's leading port and financial capital.

The nearly 200-year-old, brick-clad structures, all located in SoHo, include the **Dennison and Lydia Wood House** at 310 Spring Street, and three contiguous row houses at **32, 34 and 36 Dominick Street**.

"These four rare, Federal-era buildings are significant reminders of the beginning of New York City's evolution into a major urban center," said Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney. "The houses are remarkably intact, despite their age and the profound changes that have taken place around them. Today's votes underscore our commitment to ensuring they remain part of the City's fabric for generations to come."

Since 2002, the Commission has given landmark status to 17 Federal style houses, most of which are located in Manhattan between the Battery and 23rd Street. The "Federal" style, which was fashionable from the 1780s to the early 1830s, takes its name from the then-new republic, yet is considered a continuation of the Georgian style of Great Britain. The vernacular houses were often constructed in rows, sharing party walls and chimneys, and featured simple ornamental details. They usually had a three-bay façade with two full stories over a high basement and an additional half story under a peaked roof with a ridgeline running parallel to the front façade.

In other business, the Commission held public hearings on proposals to give landmark status the Sears Roebuck & Company Department Store, an Art Deco style building completed in 1932 at 2307 Beverly Road in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn; the c. 1905, Renaissance Revival style Yorkville Bank Building at 1511 Third Avenue in Manhattan and the c. 1901, Beaux Arts style Hotel Mansfield at 12 West 44th Street, also in Manhattan.

The Commission also voted to calendar, or schedule, a public hearing on a proposal to landmark the c. 1901 Beaux Arts style Bowery Bank of New York Building at 124 Bowery in Manhattan's Chinatown. No date for the hearing was immediately scheduled. Below are descriptions of the newly designated landmarks:



32, 34 and 36 Dominick Street Houses

All three of these houses were part of a row of 12 Federal style houses (nos. 28 to 50) that were completed c.1826 on the south side of Dominick between Hudson and Varick streets on a marshy tract that was known for much of the 18th century as Lispenard's Meadows. In the 20th century, numerous parcels in the area were cleared to make way for the Holland Tunnel, constructed between 1919 and 1927.

The three houses also were among five constructed by Smith Bloomfield, a mason and builder responsible for numerous other residences in the neighborhood and elsewhere in the city.



No. 32 Dominick (above) retains a significant amount of original architectural features, including its original form and materials, 2 ½ story height, 20-foot width and front façade with Flemish bond brickwork, high peaked roof with dormers and cornice. It had a number of different owners through the 19th century, until it was conveyed in 1912 to the Church of Our Lady of Vilnius and used as its rectory. **No. 34 Dominick Street** (right) retains its Federal style Flemish bond brickwork and stone lintels and sills. It was raised to a full third story c. 1866 and topped with an Italianate style cornice, a common alteration made by owners of Federal-



era buildings. **No. 36 Dominick Street** (left) also retains its Federal style Flemish bond brickwork. Like No. 34, it was raised to a full third story c. 1866 and topped with an Italianate style cornice. The house also features double doors and molded window lintels and a gated areaway.

Dennison and Lydia Wood House, 310 Spring Street, between Renwick and Greenwich streets

Completed in 1819, the house was originally owned and occupied by ship captain Dennison Wood and his wife, Lydia. Wood piloted ships that carried cotton from the South, where it was harvested by slaves, to New York City, from where it was shipped to textile mills in New England and upstate New York as well as to England and France.



The building retains many characteristics of the Federal style, including Flemish bond brickwork on the first and second floors, an entrance with a fluted door frame with paneled corners and some original stone lintels. The house was converted to a multi-family residence around 1847, and a storefront and third story were also added. The storefront was occupied from 1869 to 1950 by a dry goods business that later became a manufacturer of shirts and overalls. The building, currently owned by Unity Environmental Corp., houses residential units on the upper floors and The Anchor nightclub on the ground floor.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission is the mayoral agency responsible for protecting and preserving New York City's architecturally, historically and culturally significant buildings and sites. Since its creation in 1965, LPC has granted landmark status to more than 29,000 buildings and sites, including 1,304 individual landmarks, 114 interior landmarks, 10 scenic landmarks, 107 historic districts and 16 historic district extensions in all five boroughs. Under the City's landmarks law, considered among the most powerful in the nation, the Commission must be comprised of at least three architects, a historian, a realtor, a planner or landscape architect, as well as a representative of each borough.

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